

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

PCT Application
PCT/JP2003/007497



JAN 2004

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| Applicant's or agent's file reference PF15601 | FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416) | |
| International application No. PCT/JP2003/007497 | International filing date (day/month/year) 12 June 2003 (12.06.2003) | Priority date (day/month/year) 12 June 2002 (12.06.2002) |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G06F 17/60 | | |
| Applicant ASAHI KASEI KABUSHIKI KAISHA | | |

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.
- ☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).
- These annexes consist of a total of 5 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

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|---|---|
| Date of submission of the demand 12 June 2003 (12.06.2003) | Date of completion of this report 19 January 2004 (19.01.2004) |
| Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP | Authorized officer |
| Facsimile No. | Telephone No. |

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2003/007497

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- ☐ the international application as originally filed
- ☒ the description:
pages 1-15, 17-19, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages 16, filed with the letter of 29 September 2003 (29.09.2003)
- ☒ the claims:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages 6, filed with the letter of 25 December 2003 (25.12.2003)
- ☒ the drawings:
pages 1/5-5/5, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☒ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☒ the claims, Nos. 1-5, 7, 8
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. Statement**

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|---|-----|
| Novelty (N) | Claims | 6 | YES |
| | Claims | | NO |
| Inventive step (IS) | Claims | | YES |
| | Claims | 6 | NO |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Claims | 6 | YES |
| | Claims | | NO |

2. Citations and explanations

Document 1: JP 2002-108989 A (Melco, Inc., Vega Systems Co., Ltd.), 12 April 2002

The invention set forth in claim 6 does not involve an inventive step in the light of document 1 cited in the international search report. Document 1 sets forth a technique wherein a search is made for a constituent that is compatible with another particular constituent based on information about compatibility between constituents which is stored in a database, a request for the production of said product is made, and the company which has been requested to produce said product is notified of the verification results of said product, therefore it would be easy for a person skilled in the art to conceive of employing the technique described in document 1 to a medicine trial production supporting system, to derive the invention set forth in claim 6. Moreover, in order to maintain confidentiality concerning products, separating the production of products into individual steps and outsourcing these to a plurality of manufacturers of compositions, and when products are highly confidential, converting information concerning principal constituents into other information which does not allow said information concerning principal constituents to be

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inferred, before notifying the manufacturer of compositions of this information, are arrangements which could be accomplished as necessary by a person skilled in the art, and it would not be technically difficult to convert said arrangements into a computer system.